

Minutes for Elizabeth Barrett School Council

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Zoom Video Conference

1) Attendance

Elisa Korver
Fiona Gilbert
Gerry Gaudet
Natalia .P.
Jakki .M.
Michelle .B. (Co-Chair)
Renata .L. (Secretary)
Heather .D. (Co-Chair)

Regrets: Deb .C.

2) Meeting called to order at 6:32pm

3) Adoption of Agenda – Renata .L. motioned to approve, Michelle .B. seconded, motion carried.

4) Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 2021 – Heather .D. motioned to approve, Michelle .B. seconded, motion carried.

5) Administration Update – Gerry Gaudet and Elisa Korver

- Earth Day:
 - school grounds clean up today with a lot of classes outside enjoying the weather
 - Earth Rangers assembly
- May 5th – Hats Off for Mental Health Day
- Budgeting - next year looks similar to this year
- Grade 4/5 Manachaban transition planning:
 - There will be an invitation to parents to attend Manachaban Parent Council meeting
 - Q&A for parents
 - Trying to make it a special time for kids moving to Manachaban while adhering to Covid-19 protocol

6) School Board Update – Fiona Gilbert (submitted separately)

COVID-19 Impacts

Thank you to everyone for playing their part in following health measures and protocols in our schools - everyone is doing a great job! Increasing cases of COVID-19 in our communities continues to impact schools, students and staff. RVS continuously monitors our case and isolation numbers along with our staffing needs to be sure we can safely and effectively remain open for in-person classes. At this time, all RVS schools remain open as we can maintain enough teachers in classrooms and most students are able to come to school. We will continue to update families as the pandemic evolves and any impact it may have on RVS schools.

Online Option for 2021/2022

The Board recently supported administration's recommendation to continue an online learning option for Grades 1-12 beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. There is belief that there will be considerable interest from RVS families in this type of program and that RVS can continue to offer a quality online education option to meet these needs. A task force has been created to make recommendations on how online programming could operate in the future, and that group is working to solicit feedback from current online teachers, parents and students.

Draft K-Gr 6 Curriculum

Given the reality that the pandemic will continue to impact schools well into the 2021/22 school year and the burden this creates for teachers and students, RVS has decided not to pilot the recently released draft curriculum in classrooms. RVS will focus on providing opportunity for teachers and school administrators to engage with the draft curriculum and provide feedback to government through this mechanism. Parents are encouraged to provide their feedback directly to government via <http://alberta.ca/curriculum>.

Budget and Funding

On March 31, the Alberta government released funding profiles for school divisions and RVS anticipates receiving grants from Alberta Education in the amount of \$239.8 million for the 2021/22 school year. For comparison, RVS received \$238.5 million in 2020/21. The document highlighted that RVS should receive nearly \$7.2 million less if the funding formula was followed and RVS appreciates that the government is not withholding funds as a result of enrolment fluctuations caused by COVID-19. Administration continues to work with the Board's Budget Committee to develop a 2021/22 budget proposal which will be considered by the Board before the end of May.

Additional Modular Units

The government is allowing school jurisdictions to make additional requests for modular units, otherwise known as portables, to address enrolment pressures. RVS will add a request for 18 more modular units to its existing request made in Nov 2020 for 13 units, for a total of 31 for the division. The additional request includes more modular units for

Bow Valley High School, Manachaban Middle School, Fireside School and Mitford School.

Updated policies by the Board

On the recommendation of the Policy Committee, the Board approved changes to three policies: Policy 23 – School Attendance Areas, Policy 25 – Community Engagement and Policy 27 – Trustee Compensation and Development. These policies were updated to provide further clarity, simplification and alignment with current practice and various government acts.

7) Old Business

Updates from EBSC Representatives:

- None

8) New Business

- For further discussion at the AGM on May 19, 2021:
 - Heather .D. will be resigning as Co-Chair for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Colette may be resigning as Hot Lunch Coordinator for the 2021-2022 school year (Note: Will there be a need for this position next year since the hot lunch program was cancelled for the 2020-2021 school year?)

9) Schedule of Meetings for 2020/2021 (Note: All at 6:30pm and via Zoom until further notice)

- May 19, 2021 (AGM)

10) Adjournment at 6:58pm, Michelle .B. moved to adjourn, Renata .L. seconded, motion carried